



# The HHSA Connection

MARCH 2005

SAFE, HEALTHY AND THRIVING COMMUNITIES

Working for Communities!

## Edgemoor's Future

### *Groundbreaking and Innovation*

**O**n February 10, the County broke ground on the new Edgemoor Hospital in Santee.

The 81-year-old campus will be replaced by a 167,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility, which will be complete by 2007. The new 192-bed facility, located north of the current site, will have special features to assist the physically disabled and brain-injured patients who live there. The building design will incorporate solar energy and



natural lighting throughout, in a temperature-controlled environment. There will be courtyards between units,

plus a "village green" area for special events for patients, their families and the community.

"When the new facility opens," says Supervisor **Dianne Jacob**, "it will be a working testament to our commitment to care for the most vulnerable of our neighbors."

Meanwhile, Edgemoor staff members continue to provide excellent care for patients in the current buildings. The staff was recently honored by the California Healthcare Association for its innovative free clothing "store" called Edgemart. At Edgemart, donated clothing is sized, grouped and hung on wheelchair-accessible clothing racks in a way that many of the facility's patients can easily "shop" for what they need, instead of having social work or nursing staff find clothing for them. Edgemart gives patients an improved sense of pride and dignity in selecting their own clothing. They are enjoying dressing more stylishly and having more choices.

Edgemart is open 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday - Friday, with a staff member available to help the patients, if needed.

Clothing donations are always needed, particularly large and extra-large sweatshirts and sweatpants, men's shoes and tennis shoes. Bring clothing to the facility's administration building, 9065 Edgemoor Dr., Santee.



Edgemoor groundbreaking shovelers, from left: SEIU's Mary Grillo, HHSA Director Jean Shepard, General Services' Darlene Cervantes, County CAO Walt Ekard, AIS Director Pam Smith, Supervisor Dianne Jacob, Santee Mayor Randy Voepel (behind), Supervisor Ron Roberts, and Willis Locke with Sundt Construction.

## A Message from Jean Shepard *Agency Director*

**H**ow are you doing with those New Year's Resolutions? The County certainly has not forgotten its commitment to helping San Diegans lose weight for life-long health.

Last fall, the Board of Supervisors directed the development of a Childhood Obesity Master Plan. So far, they have provided \$50,000 to the Community Health Improvement Partners who will work with the Coalition on Children and Weight to seek additional funds and pursue cooperative ventures. Read about one great example on page two - the South Region's latest project launch. Plus, an upcoming School Healthy Food Summit will address student nutrition.

And remember, it's never too late to get on a new track yourself, and set a good example.



*Jean Shepard*



## Planning for the Worst

### *Advanced WRAP Mass Care and Shelter Training Underway*

**M**ore than 160 HHSA Public Health Nurses (PHNs) recently received valuable training and the chance to practice the skills they will need when called to staff local shelters during disasters or other emergencies. Mass Care and Shelter trainings were held in October, November and January. This was the first in a series of four modules planned under the Advanced Workforce Readiness and Preparedness (WRAP) program. Advanced WRAP training specifically targets clinical and specialty staff who make up HHSA's frontline response to a disaster.

During the 2003 wildfires, PHNs provided more than 1,000 hours, or 42 ½ days, of nursing staff coverage at the 13 shelters and evacuation centers set up throughout the county. The recent trainings includ-



WRAP Training participants, from left: Cynthia Fera, Kay Scavulli, Denise Stein, Liza Macatula, Laurie Bartlett, Jack Walsh, Teresita Taylor, Maureen Brewer, Tracey Thompson

ed lessons learned from the wildfires and new protocols that were developed in collaboration with the American Red Cross, who participated in each training and set up mock nursing stations for the nurses to practice shelter triage. "We are very grateful to the Red Cross for helping with our trainings," said **Victoria Buholtz**, a PHN IV with Public Health Nursing Administration who organized and co-facilitated the sessions with the regional Bioterrorism PHNs.

**Carol Nickless**, a PHN with North Inland Region said, "I was very impressed with the presentations and I enjoyed the team's delivery of the material and the interaction among the participants. I am more confident in my ability to respond to an emergency."

## South Region

### Working for Kids and Communities!

### *For Kids with Something to Lose Project Launched to Fight Childhood Obesity*

**H**SA South Region will launch a new four-year, community-based childhood obesity prevention initiative this March targeting neighborhoods in western Chula Vista. The effort will be funded by the *Healthy Eating, Active Communities* (HEAC) grant, recently awarded to the region by the California Endowment.

South Region will work in partnership with South Bay Partnership and Sweetwater Union High School District, which also received HEAC grants. The HEAC initiative seeks to improve the quality and availability of healthy foods and physical activity opportunities for children, and to decrease their exposure to marketing and advertising of unhealthy foods. The project will target schools, before- and after-school programs, and neighborhoods. The grant will also support efforts to increase the participation of the health care sector in the South Bay Partnership and community-based obesity prevention strategies. Community residents, and particularly youth, will be mobilized to participate in all aspects of the project.

The *Healthy Eating, Active Communities* grantees intend to work closely with the *Coalition on Children & Weight San Diego* and will also coordinate their efforts with the new *Childhood Obesity Action Plan* for San Diego County - a comprehensive countywide strategic plan for childhood obesity prevention. **Rene Santiago**, Regional General Manager, called the project "an excellent opportunity to work together with our community partners and local residents to address some of the critical environmental factors that we know are contributing to today's rapidly rising childhood obesity rates."





# North Central, North Coastal & North Inland Regions

Working for Operational Excellence!

## Looking to Advance

### *North Regions Take Steps Forward When Developing Their Strategic Business Plan*

**O**n January 27, HHSA's North Central, North Coastal, and North Inland regions held their annual *advance* (rather than "retreat") at the North Coastal Regional Center in Oceanside. Over 40 people, including staff from the Health Care Access Division and California Children's Services managers, attended this year's event to focus on the two-year operational plan for 2005 to 2007.



Assistant CAO  
Helen Robbins-Meyer

With keynote presentations from Assistant Chief Administrative Officer **Helen Robbins-Meyer** and Strategy and Planning Division Acting Deputy Director **Dale Fleming**, the *advance* was well received by all who attended.

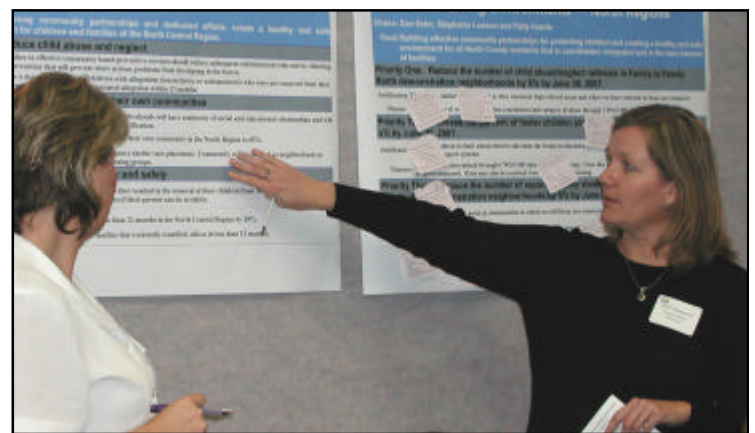
The highlight of the event was Robbins-Meyer's thought-provoking speech. She talked about the County's drive to excel, which helps us achieve top-notch service in all that we do for the public.

Through the hard work completed at the *advance*, the team clarified operational goals for the next two years. Linking the goals directly to outcome measures and performance targets ensures that the operational plans of the North Regions will be aligned with the Agency and County strategic plans.

The next steps are to bring the work completed at the *advance* to initiative committees (including both Agency and community partners) to achieve the identified priorities. In the North Coastal-Inland Regions, co-chairs will engage the existing committee, while in North Central Region, community members will be invited by Deputy Director **Nick Macchione** to participate on committees to work in partnership with regional staff to achieve our 2005/2007 business priorities.



Deputy Director and Regional Manager Nick Macchione kicks-off the *advance* with opening remarks



North Central Safer Living Co-chairs Laura Hattaway (left) and Ruth Supranovich go over initiative priorities. Region initiatives include Healthy Communities and Lifestyles, Safer Living Environments, Self-sufficiency in Families and Individuals, and Continuous Improvement of Internal Efficiency and Customer Service

## North Central Community Partners Win Funding

**T**he Linda Vista Collaborative was recently awarded funding from the California Endowment to continue several activities they originated under the Partnership for the Public's Health (PPH) grant. PPH was an initiative with the goal of improving the health and welfare of the community by developing strong alliances between residents, public agencies and private organizations. In 2000, three communities in San Diego received PPH funding from the California Endowment. The Linda Vista Collaborative, which is made up of nearly 50 members representing 30 organizations (including the Agency), will use the grant to conduct community organizing classes, community health forums, training sessions for community leaders, and upgrades to a community Web site. North Central Region Public Health Nurses and Community Health Promotion Specialists were instrumental in securing the grant, and will continue their active involvement by providing services and technical assistance. Bayside Community Center will act as the fiscal agent for this grant, which is funded from January 2005 to December 2005.



### Consumer Protection Day

#### *Free Event Designed to Protect Pockets and Pocketbooks*

**"V**ery helpful information. I feel safer already," said one participant at the County's first Consumer Protection Day, geared to helping consumers avoid being targets of scams, fraud and other abuse.

"It's good to know that so many people in government, both at the state and local levels, are looking out for my interests," said another.

The recent Consumer Protection Day attracted nearly 1,200 participants, mostly seniors, and was spearheaded by **District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis, County Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price**, and Aging & Independence Services. The free event included a panel of consumer reporters, plus a panel of experts on such issues as identity theft, construction scams and more. There were also 40 local and state consumer protection agencies with exhibits and handouts.

"Free is great! No solicitation is terrific! A 'feeling of safety' is rare these days!" wrote one participant in evaluating the event. The Consumer Protection Day Committee plans to make this an annual event.



## Mental Health Services

### The Mental Health Services Act

#### *Planning Process Begins for New Mental Health Programs*

**A**fter voters passed Proposition 63 in November 2004, the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), became effective January 1, 2005. The MHSA assures State funding for the planning and implementation of new and innovative children, adult and older adult mental health services and programs in counties.

Mental Health Services (MHS) initiated a broad community planning process for the first phase of the planning effort that began soon after the passing of the bill. MHS submitted a preliminary MHSA plan to the Mental Health Advisory Board and the Board of Supervisors, which they approved on January 11.

In the second phase of planning, MHS is preparing to conduct the Community Program Planning process that includes a series of regional community forums, stakeholder forums, special population/client and family venues beginning March through May 2005. These forums will provide an opportunity for the community and interested providers and individuals to provide input, feedback and recommendations about new mental health services. Workgroups are being established to review and prioritize the recommendations and to formulate the Community Services and Support Plan which will be sent to the State Department of Mental Health (DMH) in late summer.

Mental Health Services is promoting the planning process through its Web site, San Diego Mental Health Network of Care, the established network of organizations, and client and family groups. In addition, an e-mail address and toll free numbers are available exclusively for MHSA questions and feedback. Informational materials, such as brochures, flyers and bookmarks will be disseminated at public meetings and in libraries throughout the county.

For current information on MHSA and the County planning process, visit [www.sandiego.networkofcare.org/mh](http://www.sandiego.networkofcare.org/mh). Click on "Information about Mental Health Services Act (Proposition 63)" under "County Announcements." For questions, suggestions and comments, call (619) 584-5063 or (888) 977-6763 (toll free in the San Diego area), or e-mail [MHSProp63.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:MHSProp63.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov).

For current State level and general MHSA information, visit [www.dmh.cahwnet.gov/MHSA](http://www.dmh.cahwnet.gov/MHSA) or call (800) 972-6472.

## Some Smiles Need Saving

### Dental Facts From the Health Statistics Unit

Nobody enjoys a trip to the dentist, but *not* going is even worse. The County has made great strides in providing dental care for residents, but we have a ways to go.

- 64% of Latino children receive regular dental care, the lowest percentage among all ethnic groups of children in San Diego County, compared to 81% of African Americans and Whites, 77% of Asian/Pacific Islanders and 67% of American Indian/Alaska Natives.<sup>1</sup>
- More than 150 million Americans (55% of the U.S. population) have no dental insurance.<sup>2</sup> Locally, there are potentially 216,000 children without dental insurance.<sup>3</sup>

For more information, go to the American Dental Association's Web site at [www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org).

To request additional health statistics describing health behaviors, diseases and injuries for specific populations, health trends and comparisons to national targets, please call the Agency's Community Health Statistics Unit at (619) 515-4318. To access the latest data and data links, including the 2004 Core Public Health Indicator document, go to [www.sdhealthstatistics.com](http://www.sdhealthstatistics.com).

1. United Way Survey, 2002.

2. Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General, Rockville, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, National Institutes of Health, 2000.

3. Dental Health Report for San Diego County, A Report of the Dental Health Coalition, 2002. This number is based on national statistics estimating that for every child without medical insurance, there are 2.6 children without dental insurance.



## HHSA Shining Stars

Working for Operational Excellence!

The North Regions are pleased to announce recipients of the North Regions' Quality Service Award for the first quarter of fiscal year 2004-05. The North Regions' Quality Service Award is the Agency's highest-level employee award for the North Regions and is intended to provide recognition to exemplary employees whose accomplishments and performance significantly enhance the Agency's values, vision and mission in the North Regions. In North Central, the **Kearny Mesa Family Resource Center** received the award based upon their outstanding



accuracy rates in CalWORKs (98.03%), Food Stamps (99.38%) and Medi-Cal (98.31%). In North Coastal, Social Worker **Ed Becerra** received the award due to his exemplary performance in serving Emergency Response Unit clients and taking initiative in the community. In

North Inland, Public Health Nurse **Bea Moniz** received the award for her commendable

achievements in serving the public by developing partnerships in her work with other disciplines and the community. Congratulations to all three for going above and beyond!



**Compliance Office: (619)515-4244**  
**Toll-Free Hotline: (866)549-0004**

*An ethical workplace is your right...  
and your responsibility.*

### Remember to send in

**kudos!** Please send text (and photo) to: [Jennifer.Mallory@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Mallory@sdcounty.ca.gov), or to your section editor.

**Director's Call In** - Share your ideas and concerns with HHSA Director Jean Shepard on the **first Monday of each month, from 8:00 a.m. - noon, at (619) 515-6555**

**Have Some News?** Please submit article ideas to your section editor listed below, or to Jennifer Mallory, via Outlook e-mail.



**County of San Diego**  
Health and Human Services Agency

### Board of Supervisors

Greg Cox, District 1      Dianne Jacob, District 2  
Pam Slater-Price, District 3      Ron Roberts, District 4  
Bill Horn, District 5

### Chief Administrative Officer

Walter F. Ekard

### Health and Human Services Agency Director

Jean M. Shepard

The HHSA Connection is produced by the Office of Media and Public Affairs, a section of the Health and Human Services Agency Strategy and Planning Division

### Editor

Jennifer Mallory

### Section Editors

Aging & Independence Services: Denise Nelesen  
Alcohol & Drug Services: Linda Chavez  
Central Region: Elise Lorentz  
Child Welfare Services: Cathi Palatella  
East Region: Eve Leon-Torres  
Financial & Support Services: Marion Morris  
Information Technology: Maria Tellez  
Mental Health: Bonita Maglid  
North Central Region: Nina Constantino  
North Coastal Region: Nina Constantino  
North Inland Region: Nina Constantino  
Public Health: Pete Sison  
Resource Development: Denis McGee  
South Region: Hank Ramirez